Rs. 356 crores for Kharif '93 and Rs. 400 crores for Rabi 1993-94.

Evolution of Farm Policy

654. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a farm policy has since been evolved and laid down: and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated thereunder to protect the interest of the farmers while promoting farm exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution has been placed on the Table of the House on 14th May, 1993. The Draft stipulates that for ensuring remunerative agricultural prices to the farming community, Government would continuously review the price structure and trade mechanism so as to ensure a favourable economic environment.

Mushroom Cultivation

655. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that mushroom cultivation has been identified as one of the high potential areas to boost agricultural exports of the country;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to promote cultivation of high quality mushrooms in a big way in the country :

(c) whether Government are aware that Bihar has the ideal climate and land for growing high quality mushrooms in the country : and

(d) if so, what incentives Government propose to give to Bihar for he cultivation of high quality mushrooms for export purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10 crores to promote cultivation of high quality mushroom in a big way by providing infrastructure for spawn production laboratory, pasteurised compost unit and training facilities to the potential states of the country during VIII Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, the incentives elaborated in part (b) are also extended to Bihar.

Fertilizers on Concessional Rate

656. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered Central funds to the States to enable them to provide farmers with fertilizers at concessional prices during the current Kharif season ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what action Government have taken to ensure that the concessions reach the farmers including the small farmers throughout the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Scheme of providing concession on decontrolled fertilizers is being continued during 1993-94. Under the current year's scheme Rs. 1,000/- per tonne on MOP, indigenous DAP, Rs. 435—999/- per tonne, on indigenous Complexes and Rs. 340/- per tonne on SSP is being made available. Rs. 356 crores has been provided for the purpose during Kharif '93.